

5.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

A cumulative effects analysis is required under both CEQA and NEPA. Per CEQA Guidelines § 15355, “cumulative effects refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental effects.” NEPA 40 CFR § 1508.7 defines cumulative effect as “...the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.” Reasonably foreseeable projects are projects under construction and those related, unapproved projects, currently under environmental review. Cumulative impacts from the proposed Bautista Canyon Road project are determined by examining the impacts to resources resulting from the proposed project in combination with the effects of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions.

It is possible for a project to have only minor or incremental effects, yet when its effects are considered with effects from closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, the overall cumulative effects may be environmentally significant. The discussion of cumulative effects reflects the anticipated severity of effects and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not be provided in as much detail as other issue analyses. As with alternatives, the analysis of cumulative effects is guided by practicality and reasonableness (CEQA Guidelines, § 15130[b]).

5.1 Cumulative Projects

A search for past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects was made using the State Clearinghouse (SCH) CEQAnet database, and discussions with the County of Riverside. The CEQAnet is a searchable database of all environmental documents that SCH has received from public agencies since 1990. This database allows the public to view brief descriptions of these documents, and allows public agencies to electronically submit environmental notices to the SCH (SCH 2003). Reasonably foreseeable projects are those that are approved and under construction, approved related projects not yet under construction, and also unapproved projects currently under environmental review with related impacts or which result in significant cumulative impacts (CEQA Guidelines, § 15130). A lead agency may limit its analysis of probable future projects to those that are planned or which have had an application made at the time the NOP is released for review. Eight planned or proposed projects have been identified within the vicinity of the Bautista Canyon Road Project (see Table 5.5-1). Of those, five are specific plan/master plan residential development projects. The effects from these projects are summarized in the Status column of Table 5.5-1. Environmental documents for the Mesa Grande Specific Plan (project #5), the Vail Lake Specific Plan (project #6), and the Red Mountain Specific Plan (project #7) were not available for public review; therefore, cumulative effects discussions are based on reasonably foreseeable consequences associated with proposed development.

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan is included because of its proximity (Idyllwild) to the proposed project area. The project is a comprehensive plan establishing strategies for managing biological, cultural, recreational,

geological, educational, scientific, and scenic values. The EIS applies to BLM and SBNF land within the boundary of the National Monument. Growth of the residential population and growth in the tourism industry have increased the awareness of and need for outdoor recreation opportunities and open space within the National Monument and nearby areas; however, effects to National Monument resources from current levels of use are unknown and would need to be managed to minimize impacts to biological resources. No significant cumulative effects were identified as a result of the implementation of the proposed Monument Plan. Implementation of the plan would result in a benefit to biological resources with the National Monument when considered in conjunction with other comprehensive plans such as the Western Riverside County MSHCP.

The Western Riverside County MSHCP is a comprehensive plan that seeks to conserve up to 247 species with a reserve system of approximately 500,000 acres within 1.26 million acres of western Riverside County. Cumulative effects found to be significant include direct cumulative impacts to noncovered species and the introduction of land use within areas adjacent to the Conservation Area; indirect “edge effects” (noise, lighting, etc.) to biological resources; and indirect cumulative effects to housing, population, and employment in areas adjacent to the reserves.

The County of Riverside General Plan is an attempt to promote a more focused and balanced pattern of growth that accommodates the demand for housing, employment opportunities, and public facilities and services while minimizing the effects of increasing urban development. As noted, the proposed action is located within the REMAP, which is one of 19 area plans of the General Plan. The Draft EIR has been completed and cumulative effects of development under the General Plan were identified based on population growth within Riverside County and the surrounding SCAG region. The Draft EIR did not evaluate site-specific effects of future individual projects because it was difficult to predict timing and density of future projects, and these projects would be subject to separate environmental studies. Cumulative effects found to be significant as a result of the proposed General Plan include: agricultural resources, population and housing, visual resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, storm water runoff and flooding, geologic hazards, parks and recreation, public services and facilities, transportation and circulation, and water resources (County of Riverside 2002c).

For purposes of this discussion, a list of proposed projects with a summary description is provided in Table 5.1-1. The general location of each project is shown in Figure 5.1-1. The cumulative projects listed in Table 5.1-1 were considered in the impact analyses for each environmental issue (Sections 3-1 through 3-13). Refer to the respective sections for issue-specific cumulative effects, and Section 5.2 for a summary of adverse cumulative effects.

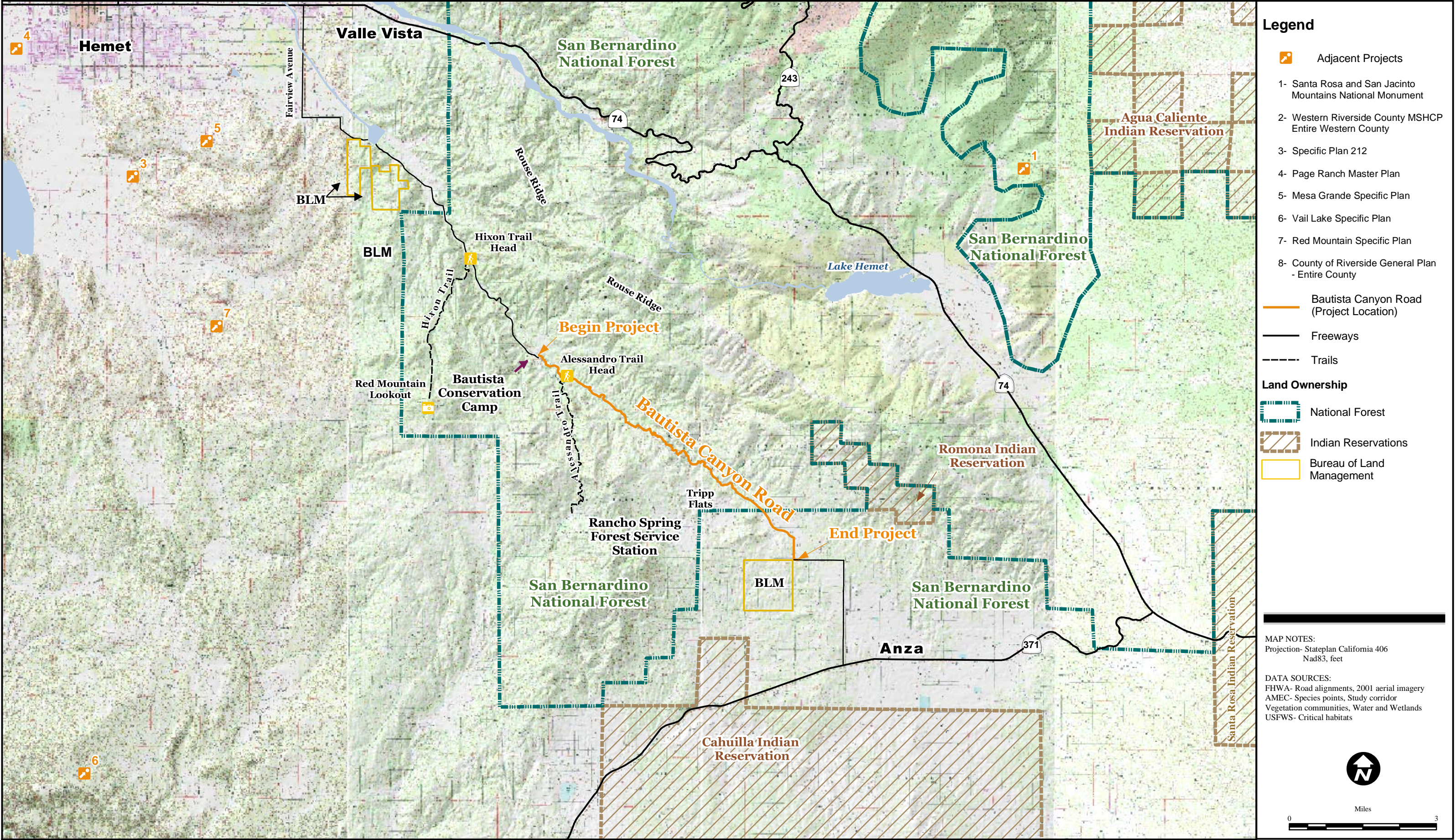
**Table 5.1-1
Cumulative Projects List**

Project Name	Summary Description	Status/Effects
1. Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan	The congressional legislation creating the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument required the completion of a Management Plan. This Draft Plan/Draft EIS applies to BLM and Forest Service land within the boundary of the National Monument. Strategies for managing the biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, scientific, and scenic values are provided.	An Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared by the BLM. The 90-day public review period ended in June 2003. Project issues include archaeological-historical resources, geologic/seismic, recreation/parks, vegetation, water quality, wetland/riparian resources, wildlife, and, land use. No cumulative effects were identified.
2. Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)	The County's proposed MSHCP will be a comprehensive plan that seeks to conserve up to 247 species within a reserve system of approximately 500,000 acres within 1.26 million acres of western Riverside County pursuant to state and federal endangered species laws. The MSHCP establishes a reserve system, with a focus on conserving species associated with development. Development may include residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational development; public infrastructure; and maintenance of public facilities. This plan would allow the County and other participating jurisdictions to retain local control over land use decisions, provide for critical public infrastructure projects, and sustain economic growth.	The County of Riverside has prepared an EIR/EIS and the public review period ended in December 2002. The County Board of Supervisors adopted the EIR/EIS in June 2003. Significant cumulative effects include direct and indirect impacts to biological resources; and indirect cumulative impacts to housing, population, and employment.
3. Specific Plan 212, Amendment No. 1, Change of Zone No. 6526, Tentative Tract Map No. 30037	Specific Plan No. 212, Amendment No. 1 will provide for a residential community of 499 single-family dwelling units, with open space and recreational amenities on approximately 390.5 acres. At build out, the project will contain a mix of residential lot sizes, 6.6-acre park, and multiuse trails, while preserving 23.7% of the project site as natural open space. The proposed project includes approximately 92.6 acres of natural open space to protect important topographical features and biological resources. Additionally, the proposed project includes 6.6 acres of active parks and multiuse trails along project roadways, which will provide opportunities for active and passive recreation. The project trails provide an internal pedestrian circulation system and act as an important link between Simpson Park to the east and the County recreational trail system to the west. The park and trail system will be available for use by residents of Mesa Grande and by surrounding, off-site residents and visitors. Residential lot sizes range from 10,000 square foot minimum to 1-acre estate lots. Dwelling unit densities range from 0.11 du/ac to 3.3 du/ac, with an overall average project density of 1.27 du/ac. The land use plan identifies the location of the various uses, including residential densities, vehicular circulation patterns, recreational uses, and open space portions of the project. Change of Zone No. 6526 proposes a text change to the specific plan zoning ordinance in order to reflect the proposed Specific Plan Amendment. Tentative Tract Map No. 30037 is a schedule "A" map that proposes to subdivide 390 acres into 499 dwelling units with 10,000-square-foot minimum lot sizes.	The City of Hemet has prepared an EIR and the public review period ended in March 2003. Project on hold by applicant. Project issues include agricultural land, air quality, aesthetic/visual, archaeological-historical resources, drainage/absorption, flood plain/flooding, forest land/fire hazard, geologic/seismic, mineral resources, noise, population/housing balance, public services, recreation/parks, schools/universities, sewer capacity, soil erosion/compaction/grading, traffic/circulation, vegetation, water quality, water supply, wetland/riparian resources, wildlife, growth inducing, land use.

du/ac – dwelling units per acre

Table 5.1-1 (continued)
Cumulative Projects List

Project Name	Summary Description	Status/Effects
4. Page Ranch Master Plan Amendment (SPA 02-2), Vesting TTM 30041 & General Plan Amendment (GPA 02-3)	Subdivision of 102.8 acres into 428 single-family detached lots with three entrances onto Sanderson Avenue, and development of four lakes and several pocket parks throughout the site.	The City of Hemet filed a Negative Declaration in February 2003 for the project. Project issues included air quality, archaeological-historical resources, noise, soil erosion/compaction/grading, traffic/circulation, wetland/riparian resources, and wildlife. No cumulative effects were identified.
5. Mesa Grande Specific Plan	The project consists of an amendment to Specific Plan No. 212 to develop 390.5 acres to include 274 acres of residential uses with a maximum of 499 dwelling units, 6.6 acres of parks, 92.6 acres of open space, and 17.1 acres of primary roads. A related application, Change of Zone No. 6526, proposes to change the zoning within Specific Plan No. 212, Amendment No. 1 from Controlled Development Areas (W-2) to Specific Plan.	A Notice of Preparation was filed with the State Clearinghouse on 8 May 2001. An EIR is currently being prepared for this project but is still in the screencheck draft phase. Information regarding environmental effects was not available at present.
6. Vail Lake Specific Plan	The Vail Lake Specific Plan area represents one of the last large land holdings in western Riverside County and provides the project proponent with the opportunity to create a unique community, one that preserves thousands of acres of open space while providing residential, recreational, and employment opportunities within a truly integrated development concept. This Specific Plan No. 324 is a proposal consisting of 7,456 total acres. It will include 5,172 dwelling units of various densities. Employment/Commercial uses will use 350.5 acres. Commercial/Recreation uses will use 78.7 acres. Schools will use 95.5 acres, and parks will make up 48 acres. Three 18-hole golf courses will use 783.9 acres. Public facilities will use 209.3 acres and there will be a total of 4,557.4 acres of open space. The site also surrounds and proposes uses for 622.5-acre Vail Lake, which is owned by the Rancho California Water District.	A Notice of Preparation was filed with the State Clearinghouse on 18 December 2000. However, an EIR has not yet been submitted for the project.
7. Red Mountain Specific Plan	A specific plan to develop a maximum of 49 dwelling units on 194.59 acres was approved on 19 December 1976 (Resolution 76-250).	Environmental effects and conclusions unknown.
8. County of Riverside General Plan	The proposed General Plan is an attempt to promote a more focused and balanced pattern of growth that accommodates the demand for housing, employment opportunities, and public facilities and services while minimizing the effects of increasing urban development. The proposed land uses include four basic components: rural, agriculture, open space, and community development. Land uses are further divided into 19 Area Plans, March Air Reserve Base, and those areas within the County territory not part of an Area Plan. In addition to the proposed General Plan, the proposed project includes an amendment of Riverside County Land Use Ordinance No. 348. The amending of this ordinance will revise the map of County Zoning District boundaries to correspond with the boundaries of the proposed Area Plans. The new Zoning District map will supersede the boundaries of existing Zoning Districts within Riverside County. The County's action will be limited to the reorganization of Zoning District boundaries and will not change the zoning for any parcel as it currently exists.	A Draft EIR has been completed and is currently under public review. Significant cumulative effects include agricultural resources, population and housing, visual resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, storm water runoff and flooding, geologic hazards, parks and recreation, public services and facilities, transportation and circulation, and water resources.



Cumulative Projects

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

5.2 Cumulative Effects Analysis

5.2.1 Land Use

As noted in Section 3.1, the proposed project is not anticipated to adversely effect land use. While there is speculation that growth in proximity to the Bautista Canyon Road corridor may occur as the population of Riverside County increases, it would occur consistent with the County of Riverside General Plan and other applicable local, state and federal (i.e., USDAFS) planning documents.

As noted in Table 5.1-1, there are several land development projects proposed in relative proximity to the Bautista Canyon Road corridor. All have completed NEPA/CEQA review or are in the environmental review process. None would require use of Bautista Canyon Road for access and based on their location, the corridor would not be used as a primary and/or direct route to/from urbanized areas of Riverside County. Thus, based on the location of proposed and ongoing development, land use along the Bautista Canyon Road corridor and plans and policies currently in place, there are no anticipated cumulative land use effects associated with project implementation. No mitigation measures would be required.

5.2.2 Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice

As discussed in Section 3.2 of this document, the proposed project and/or alternatives is not anticipated to have socioeconomic or environmental justice effects. As noted in Table 5.1-1, population and employment (i.e., socioeconomic) impacts are associated with Western Riverside County MSHCP and County of Riverside General Plan. These impacts are associated with land development controls and use restrictions and potential effects to the population and housing balance. The development projects identified above are not anticipated to have adverse socioeconomic or environmental justice effects. Because implementation of the proposed project would cause no housing displacement, adversely effect established communities, or otherwise have socioeconomic or environmental justice effects, no cumulative impacts are anticipated. No mitigation measures would be required.

5.2.3 Traffic/Transportation

As noted in Section 3.3, traffic volumes on Bautista Canyon Road are anticipated to increase after project implementation. Volumes would increase as a result of general population growth in unincorporated Riverside County and through the diversion of existing traffic currently using other roadways in the area. As discussed in Section 5.1.1, development identified in Table 5.1-1 and general population growth within the county will contribute to higher volumes. Bautista Canyon Road is not anticipated to become a direct or primary route between anticipated development and the urbanized portions of Riverside County. The proposed project would complete a system link, increase safety and efficiency for road users and improve access to a portion of the SBNF. There are no known land use development plans tied to project completion. Thus, the proposed project is not anticipated to cause or have a cumulative adverse effect on traffic/transportation resources. No mitigation measures would be required.

5.2.4 Air Quality

No significant air quality impacts were identified for the proposed project and air quality issues associated with projects proposed in Table 5.1-1 are related to land clearing/construction and increased traffic. As noted in Section 3.4, construction of the proposed project would generate temporary air emissions. No effects are anticipated during operation. All development projects and related traffic would contribute to air emissions within the region and all regional transportation improvements associated with these projects are required to be included in a conforming RTIP as part of the approval process. As noted in Section 3.3, the proposed project has been included in a conforming RTIP. Thus, because all development projects, including the proposed project, are subject to the same SCAQMD regulatory controls to reduce construction emissions and SCAG RTIP review requirements, no cumulative air quality impacts associated with the proposed project are anticipated. No mitigation measures would be required.

5.2.5 Noise

As noted in Section 3.5, traffic associated with implementation of the proposed project would cause a 12 or greater decibel increase at one residential location near the southern project terminus; and thus, would exceed the FHWA noise abatement criteria as defined in Table 3.5-3. Noise associated with the development projects defined in Table 5.1-1 would also be traffic related. However, given that projects are located some distance from Bautista Canyon Road and, as noted in Section 5.2.3, would not directly contribute to traffic volumes, there would be no cumulative noise effects associated with project implementation. No mitigation measures would be required.

5.2.6 Biological Resources/Wetlands

Construction and operation of the proposed project would contribute to the continued loss and degradation of habitat and biological resource effects relative to ongoing development in Riverside County. As noted in Section 3.6, the project area is located within the San Jacinto Mountains Bioregion of the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) area. The purpose of the plan is to maintain biological diversity within a rapidly urbanizing region by providing tools to better control land use decisions while maintaining a strong economic climate and addressing requirements of both the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. Projects within western Riverside County, including those listed in Table 5.1-1, are and would be subject to review per the MSHCP to avoid and/or minimize adverse biological resource effects.

Approximately 85 percent of the study corridor is publicly owned land. The majority of this land and the surrounding area is part of the SBNF. The SBNF Land and Resource Management Plan, discussed in Section 3.6.1, provides guidelines for the management of biological resources to avoid and minimize cumulative effects. This project has been developed consistent with that plan. With regard to the CDC Bautista Conservation Camp, no project or activities are being planned that would foreseeably affect biological resources in that area.

Approximately 15 percent of the study corridor is on private land, which comprises approximately 1.9 km (1.2 mi) of the southern terminus of the study corridor. These privately

owned lands are single-family, rural, large-lot parcels. No significant development or activities on these private lands are anticipated that would foreseeably affect biological resources in the area. Additionally, the MSHCP has been developed in western Riverside County to mitigate cumulative effects to biological resources in the region. The Bautista Canyon Road project has been developed consistent with the guidelines of the MSHCP.

The cumulative effects of the proposed project under Alternative B and C are the same as those from the project under Alternative A. See Section 3.6.4 for a discussion of these effects. No mitigation measures beyond those defined in Section 3.6 would be required.

5.2.7 Hydrology/Water Resources

As discussed in Section 3.7, mitigation measures have been identified to avoid/minimize water resource impacts associated with the proposed project. It is anticipated that effects would be less than those that currently occur during storm events in the area. Development projects defined in Table 5.1-1 are subject to similar water resource protection standards. Drainage buffers, culverts, crossings and storm water and runoff management controls must be designed into the project and be reviewed as part of the overall environmental review and approval process. Thus, no cumulative hydrologic effects are anticipated with the Bautista Canyon Road project. No mitigation measures in addition to those provided in Section 3.7 are required.

5.2.8 Cultural Resources

As required by CEQA and NEPA, cultural resources reviews are conducted for all development projects. As noted in Section 3.8, the Bautista Canyon project area contains a number of significant archeological sites. The project design has been modified to incorporate avoidance measures designed to minimize effects to these resources; however, some degree of impact would still occur. As noted in Table 5.1-1, effects to cultural/historic resources are associated with all the projects identified. Cumulatively, the projects could contribute to the degradation and/or direct loss of these resources or their cultural significance. Mitigation measures designed during consultation with Native American tribes, SHPO, traditional practitioners and others affected, would minimize losses and preserve, at least in part, their cultural/archaeological significance.

5.2.9 Hazardous Materials

No hazardous material impacts were identified for the proposed project and none are a noted concern in Table 5.1-1. Thus, no cumulative effects are identified. No mitigation would be required.

5.2.10 Visual Resources

All development projects have some degree of residual visual impact. While mitigation measures have been identified to reduce the level of visual impact associated with the proposed project, visual effects are anticipated to be significant and unmitigable in portions of the corridor. As required, development projects included in Table 5.1-1 would be reviewed for consistency with applicable building and architectural codes. It is assumed that visual impact characteristics

would be similar in scope to like projects. However, because a long-term effect of any development project is visual, cumulatively, the proposed project and the development projects listed in Table 5.1-1 would contribute to visual alternation of the respective sites and neighboring viewsheds.

5.2.11 Recreation

No adverse recreation effects were identified in Section 3.11. While continued growth in recreational use of the SBNF is anticipated, this growth can be attributed to increases in population and higher use of the Bautista Canyon Road corridor in general. As noted in Table 5.1-1, many of the development projects listed incorporate a recreation component. Though they likely would not incorporate OHV use or other activities offered in the SBNF. Regardless, development of other projects in the area cannot be linked to increased recreational use in Bautista Canyon. Thus, no cumulative effects are anticipated.

5.2.12 Soils/Geology

Implementation of projects with earthwork and structural components require site-specific geotechnical analyses to identify potential soil, seismic and related characteristics that require design consideration. As noted in Section 3.12, the proposed project would be designed to meet local, state and other applicable building codes to minimize/avoid effects related to subsurface features. Similar requirements would apply to those developments listed in Table 5.1-1. Because project designs would be required to incorporate proper seismic and related structural components, no direct or cumulative geology/soil effects are anticipated.

5.2.13 Public Services/Utilities

As discussed in Section 3.13, implementation of the proposed project would improve emergency vehicle and law enforcement access into Bautista Canyon. Seven electrical utility poles and a fiber optics cable would be relocated as a result of project construction. Service would temporarily be rerouted and no user disruptions would occur. No adverse effects to public services and/or utilities are anticipated. As noted in Table 5.1-1, public services/utilities are not listed as a cumulative effect concern. Because the proposed project would have no adverse effects to public services/utilities, no cumulative effects to these resources are anticipated. No mitigation is recommended.

5.2.14 Fire Hazard and Risk

As discussed in Section 3.14, fire hazards and risks associated with the proposed project are not anticipated to significantly increase over what currently exists. The proposed corridor, including paved travel lanes and unpaved shoulders, would serve as a firebreak. USDAFS fire suppression programs would further reduce risk. However, as noted, upon project completion, it is expected that public use within Bautista Canyon would increase as described in Section 3.3. Thus, fire risk could increase as a result of greater human presence within the canyon. As human habitation of rural areas increases, the potential for accidental starts and/or property damage from wildfires will grow. Fire fuel control requirements associated with residential developments are intended to reduce risks and potential damage to property from wildfires or

other hazards. New development such as those proposed in Table 5.1-1, would be subject to fuel load management requirements. Thus, while increased human presence and related development could increase fire risk, fire suppression and other measures designed to minimize risks would minimize potential cumulative effects.